

Lebanon: No deal without Syria

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon will stick with Syria and will not opt for a separate peace deal with Israel, President Elias Hrawi said Tuesday. Mr. Hrawi declined in an interview to comment on the nonbelligerency agreement signed by Jordan and Israel in Washington on Monday. The Jordanian-Israeli agreement and a Palestinian autonomy accord signed with Israel in May left Syria and Lebanon out in the cold in Middle East peace negotiations. Mr. Hrawi told the British Broadcasting Corporation's Arabic service that he was sorry for the breakdown of Arab coordination in the peace talks. He called for an Israeli withdrawal from an occupied area of South Lebanon before security arrangements with Israel could be discussed (see page 2). Asked whether Lebanon would go it alone and negotiate a peace treaty with Israel, Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon was "committed to a comprehensive peace and we stand fast with our commitment to Syria. They don't advance without us and we don't sign ahead of them. This is our final and unequivocal position."

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Regent: Peace should benefit people

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Tuesday the real test for the developments in the peace process is whether real gains for the people can be achieved in the future. Addressing participants in a conference for Arab American University Graduates (see story on page 3), the Regent urged Arab Americans to play a larger role in explaining Arab causes to the American public opinion and improving the stereotype perception of Islam in the West. He also urged them during a luncheon at Al Hashimpe Palace to contribute in scientific research and studies and take part in setting up research and information centres in Jordan and the rest of the Arab World. The Crown Prince called on participants in the conference not to limit their activity to the gathering and to address other important issues in the Kingdom, pointing to the role played by Al al-Bet University in conducting studies about democracy, shura, Muslim-Christian relations and Islamic positions. The Crown Prince expressed the belief that the gap with advanced societies can be bridged, especially in terms of utilising available resources and funds.

King and Rabin address U.S. Congress

Both leaders reaffirm unwavering commitment to peace in Mideast

HM says Jordan seeks 'normality and humanity' as prevailing order

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Tuesday emphatically reaffirmed their commitment to peace in a rare appearance before the U.S. Congress by the two leaders after 46 years of bitter conflict.

While the King's speech focused mainly on Jordan's quest for peace and the human side of the conflict in the region and enthusiastically spoke about a fundamental change in the Middle Eastern political map, Mr. Rabin devoted a good part of his address to the theme of Israeli lives lost in war.

Both leaders received standing ovations from the audience, and the King was visibly overcome by the enthusiastic response and repre-

today be victorious in ending war."

It was an unprecedented dual appearance before the U.S. Congress by the two leaders after 46 years of bitter conflict.

Mr. Rabin also sought to underline Israel's claim that Jerusalem is its "eternal, indivisible capital" by repeating "we have come from Jerusalem to Washington..." and referring to Amman and the Holy City on similar equating terms.

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His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin receive applause from members of the U.S. Congress at their joint appearance in the legislature on Tuesday (AFP photo)

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Clinton restates pledge to Jordan

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter with agency dispatches

U.S. PRESIDENT Bill Clinton on Tuesday again promised His Majesty King Hussein that he was committed to helping Jordan relieve its U.S. debt and meet its defense needs.

At a news conference with King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Mr. Clinton described

the two leaders as "heroes of peace" and said "America will stand by those who take risks for peace."

President Clinton already is committed to forgiving \$680 million Jordan owes the United States. Israel, meanwhile, is the largest recipient of U.S. economic and military aid, more than \$3 billion a year.

King Hussein and Mr. Rabin sharply condemned

(Continued from page 7)

Jordan in throes of transformation process after historic Washington events

From George Hawatmeh in Washington

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein's series of meetings over the past two days with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, coupled with his historic address to a joint session of Congress, are the beginning of a transformation process in Jordan's modern history which could bring with it tremendous political and economic benefits to this country and its people.

The ending of the state of war with Israel, and the

progression from a state of war to peace. But it is exactly because Jordan is taking such risks that the United States, at least, is willing and ready "to walk the final miles" with us, as President Clinton stated in his South Lawn speech on Monday.

Jordanian leaders who are accompanying His Majesty on this trip are both downsizing and prepared to take the risks, for the "time has come anyway" to put Jordan "back on the map" and ensure for

its people their rights, whether in territory, water, security, development or progress.

"What we are doing here is trying to put Jordanian interests above everything else," says Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majah. "No body else will do it for us otherwise," he adds, stressing that Jordan at the same time was neither compromising Arab interests nor undermining the cause of Arab nationalism.

The view, held by some

Jordanians, that developments were taking place at too fast a pace, is taken well into consideration by the leadership. The difference in pace, however, has not been a high priority issue compared to the immediate and ultimate objectives that have been set for the Washington round of historic events.

Take, for instance, the question of whether Jordan had to go beyond ending the state of belligerency

with Israel to declare the end of the state of war, which entail different legal interpretations, as far as experts are concerned. The outstanding political consideration here was the American factor, namely whether the U.S. administration and Congress, would have not liked Jordan to go beyond the first into the second in order to cut a final deal on scrapping the Kingdom's \$750m debt and supplying the

armed forces with new weapons.

When it became apparent to His Majesty that the difference between the two states paled in comparison to the political and economic advantages of doing the latter, he did not hesitate to declare the end of the state of war with Israel. The King did in fact say in his speech on the South Lawn, where the signing of

(Continued on page 6)

Washington Declaration sets framework for peace — Anani

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs and Minister of Information Jawad Al Anani said Monday that the Washington declaration signed Monday provides for Jordan and Israel to pursue negotiations to reach peace in accordance with U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

These two resolutions provide for the settlement of the Palestine refugees problem which Jordan insists must be solved in its entirety, Dr. Anani told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

For this purpose a joint committee comprising delegates from Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Israel has been formed to discuss the displaced persons' question in view of the fact that such complicated problems cannot be solved through Jordanian-Israeli negotiations alone, Dr. Anani said.

"Jordan is keen to see the refugees problem solved fairly and to the satisfaction of the refugees who should either be offered the right to repatriation or compensation," he said.

He expressed the view that this problem will take a long time to settle but will be banded under the framework of the U.N. resolutions.

Referring to the clause on negotiations on economic matters, Dr. Anani said that it entails working towards ending all forms of economic boycotts.

The two sides agreed on, he added, is to work towards achieving this goal and abolishing boycotts which are of two kinds: One that has now become no more justified than which pertains to boycotting world companies with investments in Israel and one which calls for boycotting international firms that employ Israeli-made inputs and components

in their industries.

With regard to the question of Jerusalem and the holy places the declaration has made it clear that Israel respects the special role of Jordan and the Kingdom's historic rights in supervising these holy places, the minister said.

"This clause was necessary to underline Jordan's keenness on its role and reflects King Hussein's determination to keep the Dome of the Rock and the Al Aqsa Mosque among other shrines under the care of the Awqaf department, which is run by the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Amman," the minister said.

The Palestinians, he said, have decided to delay discussion over the status of Jerusalem until after the end of the trial term. The King, in his drive to safeguard the holy places

"To say that progress in the other tracks has weakened Syria does not correspond with reality," Mr. Sharaa said after meeting French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

"Without Syria, there will be no stable or lasting peace ... and Syria remains the key partner of the peace negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive settlement in the region."

He had explained to Mr. Balladur that failure to make progress on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks would make it "difficult to keep up the dynamics of peace."

Israel and the United States, the main sponsor of the peace process, have voiced hopes that the breakthrough with Jordan would lead to progress on the Syrian track.

Syria and Lebanon, where Damascus is a major power broker, have lagged behind the Palestinians and Jordan in the peace process.

Despite the Syrian government's silence, the agreement got lots of print but poor reviews in the newspapers, which mirror government thinking.

The Tishrin daily splashed the story across six columns, declaring Monday "a black day in Jordan's history," a slogan borrowed from a small anti-peace demonstration in Amman.

Like other newspapers, Tishrin reported most of the developments matter-of-factly showing photographs of the two leaders shaking hands.

The joint declaration, signed by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on the White House lawn Monday, is a step towards a comprehensive peace settlement, Dr. Abdul Meguid said.

Sharaa: No 'real' peace without Syria

PARIS (Agencies) — Lasting peace in the Middle East is impossible without Syria, despite the Washington Declaration formally ending the state of war between Israel and Jordan, the Syrian foreign minister said here Tuesday.

Farouk Al Sharaa told reporters that the declaration is trying to put Jordanian interests above everything else,

"We know that the PLO blesses the Jordanian role of guardianship over the Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem," said Rafiq Al Khater, head of the Jordanian-run Waqf, or religious endowments organisation, in the Holy City.

"So far the Palestinians have not sought any role for themselves in the Waqf, and we don't believe that Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have any sensitivities over Jerusalem," Mr. Khater told the Associated Press.

Syria has criticised Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) for negotiating peace deals with Israel.

But despite its reservations, President Hafez Al-Assad's government maintains that the Jordanian-Israeli meeting will not seriously affect Syria's position.

Perhaps in a sign of things to come, the government for the first time allowed its citizens a long look at an Israeli leader on television. The state-run station aired the speeches by King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in Washington on Tuesday was merely a

reaffirmation of the role undertaken by the Jordanian Hashemites in the upkeep of Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem.

"It is also a reaffirmation that, naturally, the Jordanian guardianship of the holy shrines in Jerusalem will not cease," Sheikh Tamimi said.

The Jordanian comment came shortly after PLO officials said the reference to Jerusalem in the Washington document violated the Israel-PLO autonomy accord.

The autonomy pact, signed in Washington in September, established the Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. Talks are under way to spread self-rule throughout the West Bank but negotiations on the status of Jerusalem itself have been put off until later.

The city, which is holy to Christians, Jews and Muslims, will be the subject of talks beginning in the third

year of the five-year autonomy period.

Analysts said the Washington document could also ruffle Saudi King Fahd, who carries the title "custodian of the two holy places" — Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia — and would like to spread his influence to Jerusalem.

King Hussein renounced all claims to the West Bank in 1988, but retained his links with the Islamic holy shrines in Arab East Jerusalem by continuing to pay millions of dollars to the Waqf in the city.

Since then he repeatedly

has said he will not let go of

the Hashemite claim to guardianship of the Islamic holy shrines and will accept "the sovereignty of no one but God's" over the holy sites.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat meanwhile lobbied Arab

(Continued on page 6)

Deputies reaffirm support for peace; political parties differ

AMMAN (Petra) — His

Majesty King Hussein's visit to the United States and his efforts to establish a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region and ensure Jordan's sovereignty over its territories and water

received wide public support.

Several deputies hailed the King's visit as an important step to push the peace process in the region.

He voiced hope that the United States and Europe will arrange to ensure the forgiveness of a great part of Jordan's foreign debt.

Deputy Abdal Hafeth Al-Shakheeb said the King's decision to go to the United States was the culmination of the Jordanian leadership's quest for achieving a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region, and not a temporary truce.

Dr. Shakheeb voiced hope that the King's efforts will not only lead to restoration of the occupied Jordanian territories and regaining Jordan's water rights, but also to finding solutions to the major problem, the problem of the refugees and dis-

placed persons, and enabling them to go back to their homeland and exercise their legitimate rights.

Dr. Shakheeb expressed hope that the meeting the King held with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will culminate in a peace acceptable to all Arab parties concerned, including the Palestinians.

He added that Jordan did not act unilaterally when it decided to attend the peace process.

"What Jordan is doing now is its natural right," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership reflects the hopes and aspirations of the Jordanian people.

Deputy Nazih Ammar said the King's visit to France, following a Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher last week aimed at reviving the Israel-Syria peace negotiations.

In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister official Victor Posavayuk said Tuesday that Russia intended to push negotiations for an Israel-Syria peace agreement.

"Russia recognises the importance of the Washington Declaration but also believes it is necessary to advance in

treaty between Jordan and Israel is set to end the state of war and save much of Jordan's resources, which will then be channelled to development.

Deputy Taha Habashat said Jordan was seeking the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions acceptable to all Arab parties concerned, including the Palestinians.

He added that Jordan did not act unilaterally when it decided to attend the peace process.

"What Jordan is doing now is its natural right," he said. He added that the Jordanian leadership reflects the hopes and aspirations of the Jordanian people.

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In Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister official Victor Posavayuk said Tuesday that Russia intended to push negotiations for an Israel-Syria peace agreement.

"Russia recognises the importance of the Washington Declaration but also believes it is necessary to advance in

the historic signing ceremony at the White House. He is very encouraged by this new development and hopes this will accelerate the process of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Dr. Ghali said.

He added that it should be followed by similar progress in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process.

On Monday, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa also hailed the Jordan-Israel pact but warned that there would not be comprehensive peace until there is progress with Syria and Lebanon.

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali also welcomed the Washington Declaration.

"The secretary-general warmly welcomes the signing of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel. He applauds the statesmanship shown by His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which culminated in the historic signing ceremony at the White House. He is very encouraged by this new development and hopes this will accelerate the process of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East," Dr. Ghali said.

"The government of Japan hearty welcomes this and highly values the efforts made by the negotiators and the countries which co-hosted the peace process," a government statement said.

"The government of Japan hopes that this declaration will have a good effect on the peace negotiations between Israel and Syria as well as those between Israel and Lebanon, and mark a fresh step towards a comprehensive peace," it said.

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Beirut negotiators await Israeli withdrawal pledge

BEIRUT (R) — Artillery duels often devastate parts of South Lebanon as guerrillas harass Israeli troops on the Middle East's last battle line, but the Beirut government seems in no rush to speed up peace talks that could send the Israelis packing.

While Israel signed an autonomy deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) last year and Jordan is making strides towards peace, the Lebanese-Israeli truce has been frozen for months.

Just as Syria is seeking an Israeli pledge to pull out of the Golan Heights before there can be a breakthrough in peace talks, Beirut demands an Israeli commitment to withdraw from South Lebanon before it will discuss ways and means to peace.

When U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambly asked Lebanese President Elias Hrawi this month to raise the level of peace talks to foreign minister level, Mr. Hrawi refused, Lebanon sources said.

Last week, when U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher repeated the request to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, he replied that both Syria and Lebanon would consider raising the level of their delegations only when there was progress on the two tracks, the sources said.

Mr. Assad, whose 35,000

troops in Lebanon make him the country's ultimate power broker, personally asked Mr. Christopher for an Israeli commitment to withdraw from its occupation zone in South Lebanon and the Beqaa Valley.

The Syrian president promised that once the pledge was made he would ask Mr. Hrawi to form a joint Lebanese-Israeli military committee to work out security measures safeguarding northern Israel against guerrilla attack, and reasonable demarcation for an Israeli pull-out.

Israel's repeated demands in the past for formation of the committee have met Lebanese demands for an Israeli commitment to withdraw.

Each time, the Israeli representatives will make the commitment once Beirut disbands the Hezbollah group whose 2,000 Iranian-trained and equipped guerrillas harass its troops daily in South Lebanon.

Syria says it will take the next step in peace negotiations only after that, when the frontier zone has been quiet for six months.

Lebanon replies that Hezbollah has a perfect right to resist occupation.

Because of the deadlock, Mr. Christopher told Reuters recently: "There is a Lebanese commitment to that."

But on Saturday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharqi came to Beirut to tell Lebanese officials that this time Mr. Assad and Mr. Christopher discussed the Lebanese truce at length.

According to Lebanese sources, Mr. Assad told Mr. Christopher that if there is peace between Syria, Lebanon and Israel, Syria and Lebanon will sign together. He said neither country will sign before the other.

Beirut's bottom line is the land-for-peace principle on which the Middle East peace process was launched at the Madrid conference in December 1991.

And the basis for that, Lebanese officials say, is an Israeli commitment to abide by U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which demands its unconditional withdrawal from Lebanon.

Once that is done, Lebanon says there will be no problem in disbanding Hezbollah and establishing security on the frontier.

"The day Israel accepts the principle of withdrawal, this resistance will have no more cause and the Lebanese government will have all normal authority to implement security in the whole of South Lebanon," a senior Lebanese official told Reuters recently.

Lebanon replies that Hezbollah has a perfect right to resist occupation.

Because of the deadlock,



An Israeli water skier waves an Israeli and a Jordanian flag during a nautical peace happening in the Red Sea Monday. A flotilla of some 20 small crafts covered in Israeli and

Jordanian flags sailed from the Israeli resort of Eilat to the Jordanian territorial waters to celebrate the Israeli-Jordanian summit (AFP photo)

Jordanians jubilant over summit

By Jamal Halaby
The Associated Press

AMMAN — Ululation filled the air when televisions broadcast live images of King Hussein exchanging warm handshakes and back-pats in a White House ceremony with the leader of Israel, Jordan's enemy for nearly half a century.

The fervor appeared a setback to expectations of Muslim fundamentalists and other peace opponents that King Hussein had gone too far and too quickly for his subjects.

"Does the declaration mean that I can visit Israel next month?" asked Amal Baidoun, 26, a kindergarten teacher, as she watched TV at her luxurious apartment in Amman's suburb.

"This should have taken place fifty years ago," said Eid Marji, 45, an Amman bookseller, who also watched King Hussein and

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin end the state of belligerency that has existed between their countries since 1948.

"This will lead to security and prosperity for us," he said, reflecting a widespread belief that a settlement with Israel will activate Jordan's stagnant economy, straining under \$6.6 billion foreign debt accumulated in the 1980s.

Saud Zubidei, 32, a contractor, said: "Our King's courageous decision to meet with Rabin is an effort that he should be thanked for."

"He knows best what is good for his people and his country and he has our full support," added Mr. Zubidei.

"Mr. Zubidei's reaction was shared by many who see King Hussein as 'a saviour who oversaw' Jordan's development into a relatively prosperous and cosmopolitan nation from a backward, resource-poor land of nomads."

Despite the jubilation, some Jordanians were cautious about the fallout from the White House meeting.

"I do not know what to say," said Osama Shasha, 50, a trader, after pausing for a few minutes. "Are we going to see real peace or one that carries seeds of failure?"

"Azam Masri, 45, manager of 'Safeway-sister' grocery, was pragmatic in his viewpoint.

"What choice do we have?" he said. "The state of no-war, no peace wasn't good."

... but also unsure of peace benefits

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — A subdued and resigned Jordanian public watched the Washigto summit on television on Monday, anxious for peace but sceptical about whether Israel will withdraw from occupied lands.

"I do not say I am with or against the peace process, I am looking to practical signs of peace on the ground," Fakhri Juned, 35, said while watching the Israeli-Jordanian summit from his bakery in downtown Amman.

Mr. Juned and others said they would put behind past enmity only if the Jewish state withdrew from occupied Arab lands and restored territory occupied in the 1967 war.

The delegation, made up of representatives from private and public companies, will discuss the export of priority products to Iraq, the agency said in a report from Baghdad.

The cost of the exports will be charged to Iraqi accounts frozen abroad, it said.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak made repeated appeals for an end to "the Iraqi people's suffering" in the past few months.

Despite the handshakes and pledges of peace by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, most interviewed in Amman's teeming and poor downtown expressed scepticism about Israel's

intentions.

Some were uncompromising.

Assistant pharmacist Iman Atta called the Washington declaration "just a cover for Israeli interests with Arab help." Merchant Ali Jibril said he believed Israel still "deals with the logic of force."

Others were willing to give the new peace a chance after nearly a half century of conflict.

"I have doubts about Israel's intentions, but if they withdraw from some of our lands we will be ready to coexist with them," said 45-year-old office worker Ibrahim Hijazi, owner of a downtown coffee shop.

The enthusiasm seen in Washington was replaced in Amman by acceptance that Jordan and other Arab states could not defeat Israel on the battlefield and it was time to make peace.

"We have been fighting since 1948 without achieving anything and if we continue wars we cannot beat Israel," said Majid Hamid, an unemployed labourer watching state television's live coverage of the landmark summit.

"Let us breathe air and enjoy peace like everyone else," Mr. Hamid said in the Kamei coffee shop, glancing at the television as he played cards with his friends. "We ought to have reached this peace 20 years ago."

Many saw the summit as the only option left to an Arab state with little military power and under intense U.S. pressure to end a state of war that has existed since the creation of Israel in 1948.

The peace will reduce tension, but there will never be an end to the religious division between us and the Jews," he said. "They may come as tourists like the rest but we can never make real friends with them."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gaza has new municipal council

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has appointed Gaza City's first municipal council, after months of wrangling over the participation of Islamic fundamentalist factions and other groups opposed to his autonomy agreement with Israel. The new council is composed of ten non-partisan technocrats and is to start operating shortly, Awni Shawa, council head, told Tuesday. He said he will continue efforts to bring in representatives of the four main opposition groups, including the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas and Islamic Jihad. "For functional purposes, I prefer independents, but we have to have all the political factions to make our job easier," Shawa, an economist, told AFP. "The new council will start functioning as of tomorrow," he said, adding that its first task will be to assess the needs of the city, especially its run-down public services.

Observers prepare to leave Hebron

HEBON (AFP) — International observers are preparing to leave the massacre town of Hebron on Aug. 8 in the absence of an Israeli accord to extend their mission to boost security for Palestinians. "This is the right decision, that we are going home," said Bjarne Sorensen, spokesman for the Temporary International Presence in Hebron. "We have built a relationship with the Israeli authorities and the Palestinians in the city which can continue after we have left. They are the best people to solve the problems, the complexities of the religions here, the mosque and the settlements." The 116 observers from Norway, Italy and Denmark were deployed on May 8 after a Jewish settler slaughtered more than 30 Muslims in the occupied town on Feb. 29. Israel reluctantly agreed to the mission which the Palestinians demanded as protection for the 120,000 inhabitants, but the terms of reference ruled out any policing role. The observers decided against carrying pistols and when the army declared curfew they were not even allowed out.

Egyptian police arrest militant group

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian police in southern Cairo arrested a group of militants who were planning to kill police officers and other prominent people, security sources said on Tuesday. Police found weapons and explosives on members of the group, which was based in the southeastern suburb of Helwan. The sources gave no other details of the case, such as the size of the group or when police arrested them. The Egyptian authorities say they are winning the war against militants trying to overthrow the government. The militant groups have been relatively inactive since police killed militant leader Talaat Yassin Hammam in a raid on a Cairo flat three months ago.

Iran, Turkey to boost cooperation

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkey promised Tuesday it would prohibit exiled Iranian dissidents use of its territory for activities against Iran, but added it expected Tehran to reciprocate by acceding Kurdish rebels the same treatment. President Suleyman Demirel said in Tehran that "the enemies of the Iranian nation will not be permitted to use Turkish territory against neighbouring Iran, and we have the same expectation from Iran." Mr. Demirel, who was meeting with Iran's spiritual leader, Mr. Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said there was "no mistrust between Iran and Turkey," Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying that "Iran believes that the two countries can create a friendly and trusting atmosphere" in bilateral ties by preempting the activities of their "enemies" in each other's territories." Mr. Demirel, who arrived in Tehran Monday for a three-day official visit, said that he had come to Iran to "review bilateral relations and to boost them," the radio reported. He said trade, as well as regional and international issues, were on the agenda of his talks in Iran.

Iraq denies holding Iranian PoWs

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq on Tuesday denied Iranian accusations that it was holding more than 30,000 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs) and countercharged that Iran wanted to keep Iraqi prisoners locked up, the official Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said the International Committee of the Red Cross would confirm that all Iranians captured during the 1980-1988 war had been freed, according to INA monitored in Cyprus. The chairman of Iran's PoW commission, Mohammad Ali Nazar, said on July 13 that Tehran had proof Iraq was holding 31,778 Iranian prisoners, including 16,000 in secret camps. Mr. Nazar also denied Baghdad's earlier charges that Iran holds 20,000 Iraqi PoWs. He said 10,000 former Iraqi prisoners had sought political asylum in Iran and 1,722 others had been listed as PoWs. The dispute over the PoWs and missing in action poses a major hurdle to improving relations between the former foes.

Manila to complain to S. Arabia about contracts

MANILA (AFP) — The Philippine government is to complain to the Saudi Arabian authorities about Filipinos workers who are given different contracts when they arrived in the kingdom, the Foreign Department said Monday. In a report to the foreign affairs department, Philippine envoy to Saudi Arabia Romulo Espaldon said workers arrived to be forced by employers to sign new contracts which "indiscriminately" reduced salaries. The substitute documents also outlined work conditions different from those originally stated, he added. He said most of the contracts failed to make provisions for medical treatment, the repatriation of remains in case of death, and periods of long separation. The labour department estimated there are 600,000 Filipinos employed in Saudi Arabia, most of them as domestic helpers or construction workers.

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amsterdam ... 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus ... 5:00 a.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus ... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amsterdam ... 5:00 a.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.
Apple 600
Banana 600
Banana (Mekannar) 620
Cabbage 140 / 80
Carrot 240 / 180
Cucumbers (large) 200 / 120
Cucumbers (small) 200 / 120
Eggsplant 180 / 100
Fig 560 / 460
Grape 800/600
Lemon 400 / 300
Marrow (large) 150 / 100
Marrow (small) 200 / 120
Mulukhiah 140 / 80
Olive oil 900 / 800
Orange 500 / 400
Onion (dry) 240 / 160
Onion (sweet) 200 / 150
Cairo (MS) 280 / 200
Abu Dhabi (GF) 260 / 180
Karachi, Dubai (PK) 420 / 300
Algiers (AF) 300 / 200
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PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Ordy
17:30 N.B.A. sport
18:30 News in French
18:45 Le Journal De L'Histoire
19:00 News in Hebrew
20:30 News in Arabic
21:30 The World Of The 30's
21:30 The World Of The 30's
22:00 News in English
22:20 Poldark

PRAYER TIMES

04:12 Fajr
(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhur
16:23 Asr
19:42 Magrib
21:12 Isha

CHURCHES

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WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Max/Min temp.

Aqaba 20/11

Deserts 23 / 40

Jordan Valley 22/36

Amman 23 / 14

Jerash 23 / 14

Ma'an 23 / 14

Al Quds 23 / 14

Khalid 23 / 14

U.S. wants U.N. observers to monitor invasion of Haiti

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States Monday called for U.N. observers to monitor its possible invasion of Haiti and proposed a 6,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force to take over after the invaders leave.

But a draft of the U.S.-initiated resolution, obtained by Reuters, gives no warning date for a possible invasion as the United States did to Iraq before the 1991 Gulf war.

Both the lack of a deadline and the call for U.N. monitors is causing Washington's allies to have second thoughts about United Nations personnel being in Haiti at the same time as an invasion force. Diplomats said these provisions may be revised.

A U.S. official said he hoped for adoption of the resolution by Friday but that it could slip into the weekend. The mandate for the abortive U.N. mission in Haiti expires Sunday and the

U.S. resolution is meant to replace it.

The Clinton administration is laying the diplomatic groundwork for armed intervention by seeking United Nations authorisation for an invasion to topple Haiti's military leaders and allow Washington to choose the date.

The military overthrew exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in a September 1991 coup.

The resolution would ask the United Nations to authorise a U.S.-led multinational force to use "all necessary means" to restore the "legitimate authorities in Haiti and establish and maintain a secure and stable environment."

It also would establish "concurrent with the deployment of the multinational force, a small observer group" reporting to Secretary-General Boutros

Ghali for coordination purposes.

The document says that after the U.S.-led force ends its mission, the United Nations should take over with 6,000 soldiers and police. Dr. Ghali previously had suggested 1,200 troops.

The U.N. force should be in place by February 1995, after Haiti holds another round of presidential elections, the draft says. Mr. Aristide, the country's first democratically elected president, took office in early 1991 and served only seven months before the military overthrew him.

The U.S. official said the U.N. peacekeeping group would also include Americans. Washington would like up to 50 per cent American troops while most U.N. peacekeeping operations prohibit any one country from having more than a third of its soldiers.

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Chechen tank unit sides with opposition — report

MOSCOW (AFP) — A key army tank unit has withdrawn its support for Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and offered to help opposition forces oust him if needed, ITAR-TASS news agency reported Tuesday.

Opposition leaders in Chechnya meanwhile asked Russia to recognise them as the new authority in the tiny breakaway republic in the Caucasus and appealed to President Boris Yeltsin to guarantee stability there, the news agency said.

The Shalinski Tank Regiment, which forms the core of the Chechen Armed Forces, said it would pose "no obstacle" to the opposition seizing power from Mr. Dudayev and said it "will support them if needed," the report said.

ITAR-TASS, quoting well-informed sources, said opposition forces were now in control of most of Chechnya with the exception of Mr. Dudayev's residence in the capital, Grozny, and an area immediately surrounding it.

The Chechen opposition asked Moscow to recognise its "provisional council" led by Umar Avtukhanov, the head of the Nadterechni regional administration, as the "only legitimate organ of power in Chechnya," ITAR-TASS said.

The council would run the republic until general elections could be organised, the report said.

Mr. Dudayev, a former Soviet Air Force bomber pilot, was elected in October 1991 and at that time unilaterally declared Chechnya's independence from the Russian Federation.

Moscow never recognised Chechnya's independence, but the republic's status within the Russian Federation has remained hazy after Mr. Yeltsin was forced by political opposition in 1992 to withdraw troops he had deployed there in an effort to regain control over Chechnya.

Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, said Monday the Russian leader was "closely watching" developments in Chechnya and said the Kremlin had received numerous reports of human rights violations there in recent weeks.

Clashes last month between forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev and opposition paramilitary units led by Russian Labazanov left some 180 dead, according to opposition sources, while the government claimed no more than 10 had died in the fighting.

Despite mounting pressure from the opposition, Mr. Dudayev appeared determined to hold on to power and Monday announced that he would serve out his term, due to end in October 1995, when presidential elections would be held.

Mr. Dudayev, who was elected with 83 per cent of the vote, said he had not decided whether he would be a candidate in the next elections, ITAR-TASS reported.

Elsewhere, the Interfax News Agency said armed opponents to Mr. Dudayev had secured a stronghold in the town of Argun, on the river of the same name, to the east of the Chechen capital Grozny.



Three Spanish UNPROFOR troops try to fix a Croatian boy's tricycle in Medjugorje near the Spanish battalion's base. The Spaniard's sector includes Mostar, divided between Croats and Bosnian Muslims, where the European Union's administrator was inaugurated Saturday for a two-year mandate to rebuild the ancient city (AFP photo)

Russia slams U.N. Bosnia proposal

SARAJEVO (R) — Russia poured cold water on Tuesday on a proposal by Secretary General Boutros Ghali that U.N. troops should be pulled out of former Yugoslavia to make way for a force provided by the big powers.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said on a visit to Belgrade that only U.N. soldiers should act as peacekeepers and NATO was not a suitable replacement for the 35,000-strong U.N. force.

In Sarajevo, the Bosnian government said Dr. Ghali's proposal would harm negotiations on a peace plan put forward by an international "contact group."

"It's quite surprising because in a way it prejudices the contact group decisions," Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic told reporters.

The United Nations meanwhile reported a heavy exchange of artillery and mortar fire across the Serb-Muslim front line northwest of Maglaj in Bosnia, with 160 rounds recorded as landing in an hour.

The United Nations accused the Serbs of restricting its ability to investigate Serb violations of the U.N.-imposed heavy weapons exclusion zone around the Muslim enclave of Gorazde Monday.

Gen. Grachev also said he wanted to give Russia's reaction to Dr. Ghali's suggestion that the U.N. force should be pulled out whether a peace settlement is reached or not.

"I came here to convey Russia's stand on Dr. Ghali's statement that UNPROFOR should be replaced by NATO. The U.N. Security Council is now in a state of shock," Gen. Grachev told reporters.

"NATO is not a peacekeeping organisation. Only UNPROFOR can fulfil the mission in Bosnia."

Dr. Ghali suggested Monday in a letter to the Security Council that only major powers such as the United States, not the lightly armed and dangerously exposed U.N. force, could enforce a peace deal.

Dr. Ghali did not mention NATO in his letter, but he said the contact group — the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Russia — should provide forces to back up their peace proposals.

Of the contact group, only Russia is not a NATO member.

Gen. Grachev was scheduled to hold talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, Yugoslav army commanders and later with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Serb Army Commander Ratko Mladic.

The peace plan, which the Serbs have so far rejected, awards 51 per cent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat alliance and the rest to the Serbs, who now hold 70 per cent.

The "northern corridor," which runs through a bottleneck around Brcko, links Serbia proper with Serb-held territory in western Bosnia and Croatia.

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Prayer for peace as Sri Lankan town prepares for cliff-hanger polls

TRINCOMALEE, Sri Lanka (AP) — Hindu devotees

gathered outside the town.

Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas, who are fighting for a separate state called Eelam, want to turn this town with one of the best natural harbours in the world into their capital city. The majority Sinhalese oppose separation.

At every street corner here, heavily armed police examine identity cards and carry out body searches of men, women and children. Vehicles going in and out are searched for weapons and explosives.

The top police official here, Superintendent Ananda Hettiarachchi, says the checks must continue to maintain the fragile peace and ensure that Tamil Tiger

guerrillas do not infiltrate the town.

"Tigers have not been able to do anything here for the past two years, partly because our checks and also because people no longer support them," Mr. Hettiarachchi said.

However, he said there were several remote villages where the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) were still active and may intimidate Tamils and prevent them from voting. Some 183,000 men and women here are eligible to vote.

He said security will be further tightened ahead of next month's parliamentary polls, at which Trincomalee will elect four MPs out of the 225 seats in the Legislative

National Assembly.

Political analysts expect minority parties to play a crucial role in a future government as they predict a close battle between the main opposition People's Alliance (PA) and the ruling United National Party (UNP).

Tamil residents fear that with the campaign heating up, tensions too may surface between the Sinhalese, Tamils and the Muslims, who are in almost equal strength here.

Communal differences widened after Tamil militants butchered hundreds of Sinhalese and Muslim villagers, drawing retaliatory attacks in the mid-1980s and early 1990s.

"With election slogans ab-



Haitians picked up at sea wait to be driven to the customs dock in Port Au Prince as the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Valiant returned 219 Haitians from Guantanamo Bay Naval Station (AFP photo)

Gambia unveils military-civil government

BANJUL (R) — Gambia's new military ruler, Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, unveiled a 15-member government Tuesday made up almost equally of soldiers and civilians.

The non-military members were mostly civil servants under President Sir Dawda Jawara, who was toppled in a

weekend coup and has since fled to neighbouring Senegal.

An official statement

named Lt. Jammeh president and put four other lieutenants earlier named as coup leaders in key posts.

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World News

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Topless women OK; topless men to be fined

SAINTE-RAPHAEL, France (AP) — The mayor of a popular French Riviera resort where bare-breasted women are a common sight on the beach has decided to crack down on men walking about topless in the town's streets. Charles Omere said French television the sight of shirtless, in shorts or in briefs, was tasteless. Officers would from now on be fined up to 200 francs (\$27) he said.

AIDS-infected needle used in holdup

BESANCON, France (AP) — A grocer handed over his takings after a young man threatened him with what he said was an AIDS-infected hypodermic, police said Monday. The grocer discovered the young man managing in the back of the shop, but the attacker vanished the needle, demanding the day's takings. The grocer handed over 10,000 francs (\$1,900), police said.

Peru's tallest man takes petite bride

LIMA (R) — Peru's tallest man married a 22-year-old woman who barely reaches his waist, local television reported Monday. Margarito Machacuay, who is 7 feet 2.23 metres tall, walked down the aisle over the weekend with Marlene Lamos, a petite bride of 4 feet-9 (1.44 metres), the television report said. "I am two months pregnant and the doctors say the child is well developed," a beaming Machacuay told reporters who arrived to cover the event in the small jungle city of Tingo Vaca, 360 kilometres north of Lima. Mr. Machacuay's stature caused problems on the way to the municipal office where the wedding took place since it did not fit into the nuptial ring. "It was impossible to make a 2-inch-wide (5 centimetre) ring," a jeweller told Lima Channel 2 Television.

Bobbit denies eating girlfriend

"The presence of people (defending (someone) accused



Rwandan refugee children through a volunteer handing out biscuits at an orphanage in Goma (AFP photo)

Pressure mounts on Berlusconi

ROME (AFP) — Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi came under renewed attack Tuesday over conflict of interest, after his Fininvest media empire became ensnared in a corruption probe.

Criticism in Tuesday's newspapers came as a Senate commission prepared to debate an opposition anti-trust bill which could force the premier to put his business interests in a "blind trust," and to hear the "three wise men" he named to prevent such conflicts.

The criticism focused on a meeting Mr. Berlusconi called Sunday evening with lawyers for two Fininvest employees, wanted on tax fraud charges, and senior government officials for his Forza Italia party who were all former Fininvest executives.

The next day the financing director of his media empire, Salvatore Sciascia, gave himself up to magistrates investigating Italy's "Clean Hands" corruption probe and admitted paying bribes to finance police when making tax declarations.

"The presence of people

handed (defending (someone) accused

of crimes against the state is fresh proof of an inadmissible conflict between the Berlusconi's wider interests and his public functions," Luigi Berlinguer, head of the opposition left in the lower house of parliament, said in Tuesday's *La Stampa* paper.

On Monday evening his counterpart in the Senate or upper house, Cesare Salvi, went further in calling for new elections, since Mr. Berlusconi's new party came to power on a wave of popular opposition to corruption and old-style politicking.

"This government is threadbare and has shown itself to be something different from what Italians voted for," he said.

Partners in the government coalition headed by Forza Italia also continued to voice doubts.

"At the very least the situation is ambiguous and leaves the door open to polemics," commented Pierluigi Petrucci, parliamentary leader of the coalition, Northern League.

As well as the defending lawyers, the meeting at Mr. Berlusconi's villa in Arcore

U.S. secretary attacks Republican health plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — A

health care plan pressed by Republicans evades the hard issues that must be resolved before the U.S. health care system can be re-fashioned, Labor Secretary Robert Reich said.

In a speech to the National Council of Senior Citizens, Mr. Reich said the plan offered by Senate minority leader Robert Dole would do more harm than good to health care issues most vital to senior citizens.

"One of the first jobs of a liberal government is to put together an anti-trust law," he added, echoing an opposition demand made right after Mr. Berlusconi's victory three months ago.

The prime minister himself

has maintained a careful silence since the weekend, cancelling two planned television interviews, although his associates describe him as "indignant" and "wounded" about the suspicions being voiced about him.

U.S. troops bring aid as

Rwandan refugees trickle home

GOMA, Zaire (Agencies) — U.S. military aircraft landed in eastern Zaire Tuesday, bringing in urgently needed equipment to purify contaminated water which is spreading cholera among hordes of Rwandan refugees.

Several thousand refugees also crossed the frontier back into Rwanda but United Nations officials said they could do little to help repatriation while their hands were full coping with the nightmare conditions of the Zaire camps.

"It's taken us until now to get the aid effort off the ground. Hopefully we can balance the effort to feed and water 1.2 million people with the process of getting them home," U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Ray Wilkins told reporters.

A team of U.S. soldiers set up their first water purification plant on the shores of Lake Kivu while further down the water's edge refugees were collecting drinking water close to a floating corpse.

"We're moving as fast as we can," said U.S. army Major Guy Shields.

A cholera epidemic spread through dirty water, has swept through the camps around the Zairean town of Goma in the last week and so far up to 14,000 people have died of this and other diseases.

Aid workers said mass graves were overflowing and they would have to begin burning the piles of bodies, an act that is anathema to Africans because they believe it destroys the spirits of the dead.

Thousands of bodies were stacked up on the roadsides around Goma town and on the routes to the teeming refugee camps faster than aid groups and French soldiers could collect them.

Aid workers estimate the 1.2 million refugees need about 30 million litres of clean water daily.

Each American water plant — a total of four were due to arrive on two trans-

port planes Tuesday — can purify about 90,000 litres daily, still a fraction of what is needed.

The U.N. was aiming to get up to 36 aid flights into the small Goma Airport Tuesday, which would be a record in efforts to import supplies to feed the refugees who need 600 tonnes of food a day to survive.

German and Israeli aircraft have also flown in food and medical supplies.

U.N. officials said refugees had two weeks to harvest crops ripening inside Rwanda or it would rot on the stalk. If that happens, the refugees will have to exist on food aid for months to come as the next planting seasons starts in September.

Last Friday, UNHCR said it wanted to encourage the refugees to go home because it was safe enough in Rwanda now the war had ended and because the camps were traps for disease and hunger.

The Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF), whose mainly Tutsi guerrilla forces defeated the former hardline Hutu government after a three-month bloodbath this month, established a new transitional government in the capital Kigali last week.

U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) spokeswoman Mercedes Sagazas said the agency wanted to place stockpiles of food along the roads inside Rwanda to sustain refugees going home.

"A spontaneous repatriation is possible," she told reporters.

In Port-Louis, Mauritius, Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko Tuesday said his government would disarm members of the Rwandan army who have taken refuge in his country.

Mobutu, in a joint statement with Rwanda's new president, Pasteur Bizimungu, issued in Mauritius after talks Monday and Tuesday, said his country would "disarm" Rwandan soldiers sheltering in Zaire.

The U.N. estimates between 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers from the former Rwandan

government army (FAR) fled to Zaire from the advancing Rwandan Patriotic Front which now holds Goma's political and military reins.

Several officials of the unelected government now in Zaire have threatened to use the FAR soldiers to launch attacks into Rwanda in an attempt to regain power.

The RPF has always held that the ex-government, formed after President Juvenal Habyarimana died in a suspected rocket attack on his plane on April 6, was simply a "puppet" regime.

Mr. Bizimungu had a first meeting with Mr. Mobutu Monday when he arrived on this Indian Ocean island.

The sources said the Rwandan president's stay in Mauritius, where Mr. Mobutu is on vacation, had initially been scheduled to last a few hours and he had been expected to fly home aboard a U.N. chartered flight Monday night or Tuesday morning.



A woman comforts her husband as he lies being fed glucose solution by intravenous drip in a refugee camp north of Goma. The cholera epidemic continued in Goma (AFP photo)

Asia meeting agrees to help Cambodia

BANGKOK (R) — The United States, Australia and other countries which helped bring peace to Cambodia agreed on the need to act together quickly to strengthen its army and shore up the government, Australia's Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said Tuesday.

Australia was one of a number of countries which would join together to speed up military aid, though not weapons, to Phnom Penh after a July 2 failed coup. Mr. Evans told reporters.

He was speaking after the first day of a ministerial conference between the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners, at which instability in Cambodia was a major concern.

The situation in Cambodia is somewhat fragile at the moment and certainly needs international support," Mr. Evans said.

Conflict within Cambodia has escalated this year, with worrying implications for efforts to achieve social and economic reconstruction which is vital to the long-term security and stability of the Cambodian state," Mr. Evans said earlier in an opening address at the talks.

The Khmer Rouge, which boycotted United Nations-sponsored elections in May

handed over in addition to modern mine detection equipment.

U.S. embassy spokesman David Miller told Reuters that 44 American army personnel, including special forces from Fort Bragg, would help with mine awareness training and roadbuilding.

Australia, which has had a team of military advisers in Cambodia this month, the United States and France have all provided limited and technical assistance.

Asked whether this assistance involved the supply of weaponry, Mr. Evans said this was not the highest priority. "The immediate need is to coordinate action through their embassies in Phnom Penh."

"However, I don't want to suggest that this is the limit of the countries that may (eventually) be involved."

He said even Thailand, which has opposed supplying arms to the Cambodian government, supported the moves.

In Cambodia, the United States Tuesday delivered almost a million dollars' worth of earthmoving equipment and demining gear to Cambodian army engineers for the first such aid since the election.

Twenty pieces of road construction equipment were

Taiwan's U.N. bid comes a step closer

TAIPEI (AFP) — Taiwan's bid to rejoin the United Nations has come one step closer with the world body including the issue on its assembly's interim agenda, according to a press report here Tuesday.

A proposal concerning Taiwan's U.N. bid was officially listed as No. 154 motion of the U.N. Assembly interim agenda on July 19, the United Nations reported, citing unnamed U.N. sources.

In a joint letter to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali on June 28, twelve countries with official ties with Taiwan asked that the United Nations discuss the Taiwan membership issue at the Sept. 20 U.N. Assembly.

The United Nations ousted Taipei from its ranks in 1971 to admit Beijing, its long-time rival.

The joint letter stated that

on the grounds that the island cannot represent the mainland and its admission would only create a "two-China" problem.

Both sides of the Taiwan Strait have claimed the legitimate ruler of all of China.

But after Taiwan failed in its bid last year, the government here changed its strategy by saying that it would no longer campaign with Beijing to represent all of China.

The change is to enhance Taiwan's bid, observers here said.

The 12 countries which sent the letter to the United Nations are Burkina Faso, Central Africa, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Nicaragua, Niger, Saint Lucia, St. Vincent, Solomon Islands, and Swaziland.

Several variations of this approach are possible, including some under which mandates could take effect without congressional approval, and others that would rely on acquiescence by lawmakers.

LAGOS (AFP) — Many people were injured in central Lagos Tuesday after a street battle broke out among traders at odds over political protests aimed at bringing down Nigeria's military government, witnesses said.

They carried away fridges, television sets, fans and air conditioners worth thousands of dollars, witnesses said. Riot police later intervened to restore order in the economic metropolis.

Nigeria faces severe fuel shortages after the oil industry workers, whose union bosses have been holding strikes by oil industry workers who have been challenging the regime for four weeks.

The shopkeepers fought other traders who attacked them with knives and cudgels in a bid to have them abide by the strike call.

Armed looters took advantage of the street battles and

most powerful in the country,

Street fighting, looting breaks out in Lagos

TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY — Many people were injured in central Lagos Tuesday after a street battle broke out among traders at odds over political protests aimed at bringing down Nigeria's military government, witnesses said.

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There was no sign Tuesday that the protest would be called off, observers said.

The current military regime of General Sam Abacha has arrested Mr. Abiola, a Muslim tycoon from the Yoruba southwest, who faces trial for treason since he last June declared himself head of state and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Security forces told passers-by near the Central Bank of Nigeria and in adjoining streets to raise their

arms in the air before they went about their business Tuesday, to ensure that they were not armed, witnesses said.

Hundreds of Lagos market women Monday staged a peaceful march round main streets, calling for a quick return to democracy and the installation of Mr. Abiola, currently detained in the federal capital Abuja, as president.

About 14 people, mostly youths and schoolchildren, were arrested Monday in Ibadan, capital of south-west Oyo state, 140 kilometres north of here, in another pro-democracy protest, press reports said Tuesday.

They were released without charge, police said.

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A much stronger Jordan

FOLLOWING THE proclamation of the end of the state of war between Jordan and Israel, the Kingdom emerges much stronger and more confident than before. In a region that has seen many wars in the past 40 years, not only between the Arabs and Israel but also among Arabs themselves, a Jordan in peace with its most powerful neighbour is certainly stronger than one at war with it.

During the past decade, Jordan saw the edifice of a confident post-1970 Arab order crumble down. The fall started with Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the driving of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) out of that country. The fall of oil prices came next. Then came Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and the Gulf war that led to a schism still unhealed in Arab ranks. In the process, Jordan lost Iraq as a formidable trade partner, the Gulf states as a financial aid source, and the U.S. as a long time friend and ally.

And in 1993, Jordan was taken by surprise by the deal made between the PLO and Israel in Oslo.

Jordan found itself in the first days of 1994 left with a few friends and more enemies.

The threats were coming from all directions: The American blockade of Aqaba, Saudi estrangement, lack of Arab solidarity, scarcity of funds, obsolete army equipment and Israeli pressure. And thus Jordan had to move and attempt to quell all the threats.

Monday's Washington Declaration is not an instant panacea. It surely shattered the aspirations of those who hoped Jordan was bound to disintegrate and were positioning themselves to reap the spoils. The Washington Declaration might not help heal the rift in the Arab World, but it certainly sends strong signals to many capitals in the region that Jordan is a viable state, a major player and a reliable partner in the emerging post-Cold War Middle East regional order.

With its most volatile borders recognised and its role in the peace process reassured, Jordan hopes that its decades-old quest for peace and its moderate and tolerant posture will at last bring peace and prosperity to its people and all the peoples of the region.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE WASHINGTON declaration is not the end of the road but it serves as a first step on an arduous road towards regaining Jordan's legitimate rights, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday. Commenting on the summit meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and the U.S. president, the paper said that it was an occasion to declare the end of belligerency and end the no-war-no-peace situation that lasted for ages. The Washington declaration marks a new era and a new beginning for active work on the road to peace and a commitment on both sides to work hard to achieve the aspirations of the people in the Middle East region, the paper added. While admitting that times have changed and that new means other than conflict are being sought to regain national rights, the paper said one cannot be carried away by unjustified optimism and at the same time should not resign himself to pessimism, one should wait for the final outcome, said the paper. We welcome peace that will restore our rights, end aggression and establish security and stability in the region and open the door for future prosperity and progress, added the paper. But, the paper said, the road to attain the national aspirations is still long and King Hussein's leadership and wise policies coupled with a strong national unity are essential ingredients to help the Kingdom achieve its objectives.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour addressed the one hour sit-in staged by heads and supporters of opposition parties near the Grand Husseini Mosque downtown Amman and said that these parties' condemnation of the Washington summit meeting was fruitless and would soon be forgotten. Mohammad Subeih said that the parties have failed to present an alternative to a meeting with the Israelis to regain the lost territory and the other rights. While admitting that the opposition groups have resorted to very democratic means to express their views and sought to present a symbolic gesture in opposition to the Washington meeting, rather than organising a huge rally that would further inflame sentiments, the writer said that it was quite possible and necessary for the heads of these parties to issue a statement with an alternative plan to convince the public of their views. The writer said that the one hour sit-in was deemed necessary by the opposition parties whose activities, charged the writer, are being totally ignored by the official information services.

Washington Watch

American-Jewish community and Christian fundamentalism

THE INCREASINGLY powerful role played by the Christian fundamentalist movement in the Republican Party poses a serious problem for the organised Jewish community in the U.S. During the past month this issue has stirred up a vigorous public debate within the organised Jewish community. While the debate was first played out in the Jewish press, it has recently made its way into the opinion pages of mainstream U.S. press.

For at least the past two decades, American-Jews have been divided over their view of Christian fundamentalism. Liberal Jews were repulsed by the "fanaticism of the true believers." They were concerned not only about the intolerance of the movement in its rejection of the liberal social agenda espoused by a majority of the Jewish community, but also by the claim of many fundamentalist Christians that only believers in Jesus Christ would be saved by God.

So, as liberal Jews led the fight for maintaining the separation between Church and State (including the effort to keep prayer out of public schools and removing Christian symbols from publicly owned property), they ran up against those Christian groups which would argue that religion is an important part of public.

On the other side were those pro-Israel strategists who, as early as the 1970s, saw right wing Christians as an ally in their struggle against the Arabs. Many Christian fundamentalists were virulently anti-Communist, and saw Arabs as surrogates of the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

But belief in the state of Israel was also for many fundamentalists a matter of theology. Made increasingly popular by the Reverend Pat Robertson in the 1980s, this belief taught that the Old Testament prophecies were destined to be replayed in the modern world, leading to the Day of Judgement and the Final Battle of Armageddon as proclaimed in the New Testament.

According to this school of thought, the gathering of the Jews into Israel in 1948 was part of God's plan to bring on the Final Battle, in which the forces of good (which fundamentalist Christians see as the U.S. and its allies) would confront the forces of evil (correspondingly seen as the Soviet Union and its allies — Arabs and Muslims). This battle would lead to the destruction of the Earth, which for this theology is a necessity before Jesus can return to save "the select, the believers."

This Christian fundamentalist view maintained that, although all Jews must ultimately be converted to Christianity in order to fulfill the prophecies, Israel must be supported at all costs.

It was this last belief which led several right-wing Jewish strategists to cultivate fundamentalist Christian support to shore up their political power in the U.S. They arranged trips for fundamentalist leaders to visit Israel and meetings for them with Israeli government officials. Jewish groups also helped arrange for these fundamentalist Christian groups to open offices in Israel and even a Christian television station in South Lebanon. In return, the Christian fundamentalists supported the right-wing Jewish pro-Israel agenda in the U.S.

Many of these right wing Jewish strategists formed the

backbone of the neoconservative movement that provided quite a number of foreign policy experts to the Reagan administration in the 1980s. It was they who formed the unlikely alliance of right-wing Jews and Christian fundamentalists supporters of Israel within the Republican Party.

The intensity and success of this relationship can best be understood by the example of 1988, when Arab-Americans took pro-Arab and balanced Middle East peace process resolutions to Democratic Party state conventions across the U.S. A coalition was formed of Arab-Americans, progressive Jews, African-Americans and peace activists. In every state where this coalition entered Democratic conventions, they won. And, for the first time, this same coalition succeeded in getting the issue of Palestinian statehood debated at the Democratic National Convention.

On the other hand, the power of the neo-conservative and Christian fundamentalists alliance was so strong on the Republican side that, in 1988, Arab-Americans were unable to win or even secure a debate on any Middle East platform language in any state. Even in 1992, when Arab-Americans sought to change the very strong pro-Israel language of the Republican Party by adding language supportive of the Madrid process started by the Republican administration of President Bush and Secretary of State Baker, every attempt was defeated by this right wing alliance.

So, today, as liberal Democrats, including many Jewish Democrats, began a campaign to warn about the strong influence of the Christian right in the Republican Party, it is not surprising that neo-conservative Jews have rushed to the defence of their right-wing Christian Republican allies. This has set off a firestorm of debate within the Jewish community.

Compounding this debate is a recently published report by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith (ADL), "The Religious Right: Assault on Tolerance and Pluralism in America," a study of the growing influence of the Christian fundamentalist movement. While the ADL steadfastly maintains that their report is non-partisan and should not be confused with the Democratic campaign against the Christian right, the timing of its release has fanned the flames of debate in the Jewish community.

The sides in this debate currently line up something like this: On the one side are liberal Jewish organisations such as the American-Jewish Committee and the American-Jewish Congress and moderate Jewish Republicans like Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA). On the other side are Likud-supporting groups such as Americans for a Safe Israel (ASI) and former Reagan and Bush administration officials like former Reagan Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams and Vice President Quayle's former Chief of Staff William Kristol.

The role of the ADL in the midst of this dispute is, at best, confusing. A once-liberal civil rights organisation, the ADL has moved to the right, finding "anti-Semitism" in every liberal and left-wing group in the U.S. — African-Americans, the liberal press, the mainstream Protestant National Council of Churches, peace organisations and all

Arab-American groups. It is the ADL which is responsible for creating the equation of anti-Israel and anti-Semitism.

The liberal side warns that the Christian fundamentalists are "anti-pluralist and intolerant," and that their growing influence threatens the liberal social agenda on issues like separation of church and state, abortion rights and the rights of minorities including women and homosexuals. "The religious right is very, very dangerous," claims Steve Gutow, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council. "When pluralism is challenged... most of us in the Jewish community are going to stand up and say 'no.' Despite recognising the value of their support for Israel, Mr. Gutow says that "most Jews are understandably mistrustful of the radical right."

The conservative Jewish response is straight-forward. The spokesperson of ASI said "the greatest friends the state of Israel has in America are the Christian conservatives" and he goes on to note that "conservative Christians and Orthodox Jews share beliefs on many social and moral issues."

Elliott Abrams goes further, accusing many in his community of holding a "deep-seated fear of Christian Evangelical groups" that he says is a form of bigotry. "William Kristol adds "it is just so short-sighted and self-destructive for a Jewish organisation like the ADL to unjustly and gratuitously alienate Christian conservatives."

While the debate rages on in the Jewish community over the issue itself, and over the ADL report, the Republican Party leadership has apparently decided to distance itself from the Christian right — a powerful bloc of votes which the Republicans feel are central to their electoral ambitions of 1994 and 1996. At the same time, the party leaders and 1996 presidential hopefuls are attempting to reach out to the broader Jewish community in an effort not to lose their votes, as they seek to win upcoming elections.

The national chairman of the Republican Party Haley Barbour, characterised the attack on Christian fundamentalists as "without doubt an organised political strategy. A cynical organised campaign of Christian bashing." He then went on to appeal to Jewish voters saying that he believed that Republicans "deserve more than (the) 15 per cent" of the Jewish vote that George Bush won in 1988 (recalling that, as a result of neo-conservative support, Ronald Reagan won 33 per cent of the Jewish vote in 1988).

Mr. Barbour went on to pledge strong Republican support for Israel, saying, "I don't think there can be any question that Jerusalem should remain a united city under Israeli sovereignty." The Republican Party chairman also noted that "if you look at most Republicans, you'll see overwhelming support for foreign aid to Israel."

The Democrats have succeeded in creating a national debate over the role that the Christian right wing plays in the Republican Party. But while the expected debate between Democrats and Republicans may now be subsiding, the debate within the Jewish community seems to be far from over. The bottom line to this debate is simple: Is support for right wing Israel policy more important to the Jewish community than the social agenda of pluralism, tolerance and liberalism they have long espoused?

"Jordan's official acceptance of all this is tantamount to a recognition of the total Israeli sovereignty over it."

The statement also said that Jordan's "acceptance to becoming a party to the American-Zionist axis without any consideration for inter-Arab relations and regardless of the concessions on the relationship between the government and people of Jordan and the impact on Jordan and the impact on the neighbouring Arab countries."

"Israel has finally agreed to accept Jordan's sovereignty and territorial integrity, having had posed a big threat to them long before. Who is winning there? Who had the greater military capability to threaten the other before, if I may ask?"

"In a statement issued Tuesday, said the agreements will have "negative consequences on our security and stability in Jordan and that of the entire Arab and Muslim world."

The statement said the government's decisions were not democratic "since they were taken without referring to the Jordanian people nor to their representatives in Parliament or to the political parties."

The statement said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war between Jordan and Israel at a time when Israel is still "occupying our land and stealing our water."

"Moreover, the declaration gave Israel new concessions, including security coordination, joint economic projects and a share of Jordanian waters, including the Yarmouk River water. It also ignored the refugee problem," the statement said.

It added that Jordan had accepted Israeli claims to religious sovereignty of the holy places, abandoned national and Islamic sovereignty over these places, and ignored Palestinian sovereignty.

The Islamic Action Front's Zarqa chapter will stage a sit-in Wednesday at the party's headquarters along Zarqa-Amman highway.

At the popular level a number of mayors, university professors, government officials, refugee notables, academics, and heads of unions voiced their support for the King's initiative and said the Washington Declaration ends the state of war between Jordan and Israel at a time when Israel is still "occupying our land and stealing our water."

"In a statement issued Monday Al Ahd said Jordan had never been absent from the scene of events in the region,

Jordan on throes of transformation

(Continued from page 1)

the Washington Declaration took place Monday, that the English term for "belligerency" existed in neither Arab nor Hebrew, indicating that a difference therefore hardly existed to warrant trouble over the issue. And it was that particular sentence, indeed, that saw him receiving two standing ovations at the White House and Capitol Hill, signalling the inevitability of all-around agreement by the Jordanians, Americans and Israelis.

Warren Christopher, the usually conservative and tight-lipped U.S. Secretary of State, sounded so elated and upbeat about the event that he told a television interviewer that Jordan's economy would witness a transformation process in the next couple of years.

President Clinton had earlier called the King a "hero," who deserved total support from the American people.

On the political level, Jordan has achieved not only a breakthrough in asserting its indispensable role in the emerging regional order, whether in

terms of Amman's relationship with Saudi Arabia (Prince Bandar, the Saudi ambassador, absented himself from Washington over the past few days) or in terms of renewing the Kingdom's traditionally close ties with the U.S.

Jordan did also make gains that would see Jordanians through the difficult economic period that started in the early eighties, deepened in the second half of that decade and continued during the Gulf crisis and war.

Even in the Washington Declaration with Israel, the Jordanians made sure that the agreements reached would work to this country's benefit, preserving the holy Islamic place in Jerusalem being the best example there. Besides, there are elements in the agreements that would enable Jordan to maintain and strengthen its geopolitical interests in the region as a whole.

Senior Jordanian officials insist that no undue concessions were made to the Israelis through signing the Washington Declaration. Israel was basically after ending its isolation in the region as a whole.

With Israel could "not alone save the region from war and crisis" and that such agreements "would lead to new tension between people and communities" Arab leaders.

He telephoned King Hassan of Morocco, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz, Saudi Arabia's defence minister, a Palestinian official told AFP.

Mr. Arafat initially welcomed the Israeli-Jordanian deal, saying it was a blow for the Palestinians.

The signing of the accord between Israel and Jordan is yet another step on the road to liquidating the Palestinian cause," said the country's ministry of Arab affairs.

"This accord comes as Israel is continuing its aggression against the Arabs and its bombardment of South Lebanon. It contradicts the U.N. Charter, which does not allow the recognition of the occupation of territory by force."

Newspapers in Tripoli, which rejects the Arab-Israeli peace process, also condemned the deal.

Mr. Rabin on Tuesday defended the recognition state-

ment, and Jordan has always been an active participant in the decision-making process.

Eight leftist and Islamic parties in addition to the Jordanian Arab Popular Committee for Confrontation, Concessions and Normalisation of Relations with Israel expressed dissatisfaction with the agreements reached between Jordan and Israel.

Deputy Nader Dheirah said Jordan's decision to hold talks with Israel was not a Jordanian decision only, but was backed by Arab consensus. Jordan's peace drive is meant to restore Jordanian water and territorial rights and to demarcate the Jordanian boundaries.

Member of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Saad Al Adwan blessed the King's step describing it as "daring and courageous" and wished King Hussein every success in his efforts and continuous endeavours to achieve what he aspired to for his own people and the Arab Nation.

The King, in his joint conference with President Clinton and Mr. Rabin after addressing Congress on Tuesday, said Jordan was alerted to the possibility of terrorist attacks like those waged in London yesterday and in Argentina last week.

"But in the final analysis," said a senior Jordanian official, "the threat of violence cannot stop a country, especially like ours, from seizing the right moment and moving forward towards a better and more secure future."

In a statement issued Monday Al Ahd said Jordan had never been absent from the scene of events in the region,

"This statement which may make the PLO shrug their shoulders only reflects current reality," Mr. Rabin told Israeli radio from Washington, referring to the Waqf.

"The important thing is to separate religious and political problems when it concerns Jerusalem," he said.

"In any case there are many who claim the Islamic holy sites: Saudi Arabia, the PLO, the king of Morocco who is chairman of the Al Quds committee of the Arab League and Jordan."

In an address to the U.S. Congress the King said Tuesday:

"My religious faith demands that sovereignty over the holy places in Jerusalem reside with God and God alone. Dialogue between the two communities on issues like the status of Jerusalem, the protection of the holy sites and the preservation of the historical and cultural heritage of the city must be conducted in accordance with the principles of Islam and the principles of democracy."

"Any attempt to exclude the Palestinian leadership and Yasser Arafat in particular from the negotiations on Jerusalem can only harm the peace process," said Sufian Abu Zeida, a Gaza City official of Mr. Arafat's Fatah group.

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Business & Finance

NESDAY, JULY 27,
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Financial Markets		Jordan Times		
In co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close Date 25/7/94	Tokyo Close Date 26/7/94		
Sterling Pound*	1.5304	1.5320		
Deutsche Mark	1.5895	1.5886		
Swiss Franc	1.3480	1.3490		
French Franc	5.4275	5.4380**		
Japanese Yen	98.55	98.70		
European Currency Unit	1.2100	1.2022**		
1.00 Per STG *London Opening at 8:00 A.M. GMT				
Foreign currency interest rates Date: 26/7/1994				
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.18	4.56	5.00	5.50
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.00	5.31	5.93
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.75	4.87
Swiss Franc	4.00	4.06	4.12	4.37
French Franc	5.25	5.37	5.56	5.75
Japanese Yen	7.87	8.00	8.00	2.25
European Currency Unit	5.75	5.81	6.00	6.25
Interest bid rate for amounts exceeding 1,000,000 or equivalent.				

that the current wave of industrial disputes sweeping South Africa would harm economy which is just emerging from the longest recession and undermine investor confidence. Mr. Mandella, president of the government's strategic sector, has insisted it will pursue prudent and disciplined economic policies. SACOB said in its progress report that it had a major task to fulfill in ensuring the objectives of the plan come to fruition.

But while the RDP envisaged a role for business, it had not been clearly spelt out and there are some who fear might interpret the plan as a sign the new administration would be as authoritarian as the previous one.

"There is one matter central to the RDP, about which the business community is concerned. This relates to state intervention in the economy," it said.

It acknowledged such intervention was unavoidable in modern industrial economies, but much depended on how it was exercised. "If the state is to be used as a heavy-handed manner to counterbalance the distortions of apartheid with one ideologically-driven directions, the result for the economy will be catastrophic," it warned.

It referred, for example, an RDP proposal that if major financial institutions did not take up "socially desirable" and targeted investments, the government should consider some form of legislation to achieve the

SCOPE
SDAY JULY 27, 1994

Carroll Righter Founda
tions. Engage in a
de activities and become more
familiar with those around you.

CORPIO: (October 23 : November 21) Delve into important tasks ahead of you, spending time on less important matters. Be more helpful towards around you today.

GITTARIUS: (November 20 : December 11) Be sure business affairs are running smoothly before seeking romance. Be more optimistic towards new opportunities you are involved in.

APRICORN: (December 20 : January 20) Go after the personal goals which most appeal to you and gain them easily. Handle business affairs wisely and you will be successful.

QUARIES: (January 21 : February 19) Listening to old friends have to say could bring you more success in your endeavours.

SCES: (February 20 : March 20) You can have big advantages through the unexpected so be alert at all times to opportunities. Strive for increased happiness with loved ones.

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GOODWILL GAMES

Joyner-Kersee wins heptathlon title; Mitchel wins 100m, becomes a star

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia (AP) — Jackie Joyner-Kersee struggled to her third straight Goodwill Games heptathlon title Tuesday, while Mike Powell and Nouredine Morcelii won their events.

Joyner-Kersee, the world record-holder, overcame a bad case of asthma to win the heptathlon with 6,606 points — her lowest total since 1984.

She had trouble breathing as she completed the final event, the 800 metres, as soon as she crossed the finish line, she doubled over and tried to catch her breath. Her coach and husband, Bob Kersee, rushed over and pounded her on the back to help her breathe.

"When the weather got cooler, it kicked up some pollen and dust," Joyner-Kersee said later. "In the home stretch, I was feeling so hot I wanted to pull my top down. I couldn't breathe. I'm glad it's over."

Joyner-Kersee had built a 109-point lead after Monday's first four events. After Tuesday's long jump, javelin and 800 metres, she finished 114 points ahead of runner-up Larisa Turchinskaya of Russia. Ghada Shouaa of Syria was third.

AIBA chief Choudhry smiles at last

ST. PETERSBURG (R) — For the first time in several years International Amateur Boxing Association (AIBA) President Anwar Choudhry can allow himself the luxury of a relaxed smile.

After a series of crises which at one stage looked like pushing the sport off the Olympic timetable, Amateur Boxing looks safe for the time being.

It is a far cry from the dark days of October 1988 when International Olympic Committee (IOC) head Juan Antonio Samaranch announced that boxing's future as on Olympic sport was under review.

He was speaking in the wake of the boxing tournament at the 1988 Seoul Olympics, marred by several highly controversial judging decisions.

Choudhry introduced a series of sweeping changes designed to improve safety

Joyner-Kersee, the American record-holder in the women's long jump and the second-longest performer in history, withdrew from Thursday's long jump competition. Her husband said she would be too physically spent after the heptathlon to compete in the long jump.

Powell, the world record-holder, won the long jump on his sixth and final attempt with a leap of 8.45 metres (27 feet, 8 3/4). He fouled three times and appeared to be suffering from a hamstring injury, but came through when he needed to. Fellow American Erick Walder was second in 8.39 (27 6 1/2).

Carl Lewis did not compete in the long jump, having pulled out after running the 100-metres Monday.

World record-holder Morcelii of Algeria pulled away on the last lap to win the mile in 3:48.67. The fastest time of the year. After crossing the finish line, he dropped to his knees on the track, spread out his arms and made the victory sign with both hands.

In beach volleyball action

Tuesday, Norway's Jan Kvalheim and Bjorn Naessie won the men's gold medal by beating the U.S. team of Jeff Williams and

Carlos Briceño 12-8, 12-6.

The women's gold was won

by the U.S. team of Karolyne Kirby and Liz Massakayan of San Diego, who downed Brazil's Monica Rodrigues and Auriana Samul 12-9, 12-1.

"This has been our no. 1 goal all year," said Massakayan, who along with Kirby won the five world series titles earlier this year, "this is the first major event we've had in the sport and is similar to what we are going to see in the future at the Olympic Games."

Beach volleyball will make its debut at the 1996 Games in Atlanta. "Winning the gold in Atlanta is our ultimate goal," Kirby said.

In another U.S.-Brazil matchup, Americans Lori Forsythe and Barbara Fontana beat Maria Salgado and Roseli Timm of Brazil 15-8

for the bronze medal.

The star of Monday's track competition was Dennis Mitchell, the "Green Machine," who won the men's 100-metres. Now be wants to cash in.

"I feel like a million dollars," Dennis Mitchell said after beating a marquee field Monday night that included Leroy Burrell and Carl Lewis. "I wish I had a million

dollars."

Mitchell might not collect that right away, but he's certainly in a strong position to demand big money for appearing at lucrative brand price meets in Europe this summer.

"Zurich and Cologne will be bigger races than this," he said. "There is a lot of money walking around in the 100 metres this year, and I want to get a big piece of it."

Mitchell's coach, John Smith, said he will set to it that the 28-year-old sprinter is well rewarded by big meet promoters.

"When an athlete is running well, they want him," Smith said. "Dennis is running extremely well. He's a streak runner, and he's catching fire now."

Originally, Mitchell wasn't even invited by Goodwill Games organizers. He was asked to compete only after Britain's Linford Christie, the Olympic and world champion, withdrew because of a hamstring injury.

"They signed everybody but him," Smith said of Mitchell. "He was angry. It was a disgrace. They couldn't run the race without him."

And judging standards.

He thought he had saved the day until the leak of an IOC programming committee document last December which urged boxing to drop out of the 1996 Olympics.

"I met Samanarim immediately and he assured me the report did not have the support of the IOC. He very categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic Games programme," Choudhry told journalists at the Goodwill Games boxing tournament.

The AIBA chief showed his new confidence about the sport when he revealed he had asked Russia to organise a permanent annual competition gathering the best eight amateur boxers in all 12 weight categories.

But although boxing seems to be safe for the time being, Choudhry admits things could still be better.

One improvement to the

sport still provoking some controversy is the computer judging system which Choudhry devised in a bid to defuse criticism that biased and incompetent referees were ruining the sport.

The system registers a punch only if three of the five judges press a button within one second of each other.

But boxers complain that judges regularly fail to focus on head shots, which are noticed more easily.

Choudhry, a Pakistani who judged at the 1964 Tokyo Olympics, is unmoved, saying there had been just one judging protest at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics compared to 32 at Seoul in 1988.

"The system has stood the test of time. The administrators fully believe in the system," he said. "The IOC has congratulated us about all we have done to overcome very strong doubts about the IOC."

"The IOC study categorically stated boxing should remain on the Olympic programme and remained a safe sport for the youth," he said.

But pressed on the vocal complaints about the new judging system, he concedes: "We are not worried about it but there is room for improvement."

For him the computer system underlines the changing face of the sport.

"Boxers who are small do not have much chance. Today you need good height, a long reach and good footwork," he said.

Choudhry also had to deal with ever increasing criticism from doctors over the medical dangers of boxing.

AIBA paid \$1.5 million for a five-year study of 500 boxers which coincides with a similar study done of the IOC.

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One improvement to the

**Spurs to renew chase for Hagi**

LONDON (AP) — Troubled English soccer club Tottenham is reported to be certain to renew its bid for Romanian World Cup star Cheorge Hagi after the collapse of his negotiations with Barcelona.

Hagi, who is currently tied to Italian club Brescia, was expected to move to Barcelona for £2 million (\$3 million), but the deal has fallen through.

"There is still a very good deal from Tottenham on offer," his business manager said in London's Evening Standard newspaper.

Tottenham is desperate to boost its playing quality after being severely punished and handicapped by the Football Association when it was found guilty in May of making

irregular payments to players several years ago.

The club was banned from this season's F.A. Cup, fined £500,000 (\$900,000) and had 12 points deducted from its total at the start of this season, which was later reduced to six.

Hagi, 29, was one of the genuine greats at the World Cup and was a big reason behind Romania's charge to the quarterfinals, where it lost to Sweden in a penalty shootout.

The midfielder will be a great boost for Spurs manager Ossie Ardiles who failed in a £2 million (\$3 million) bid for Brazilian defender Marcio Santos last week.

Pakistan facing world soccer ban

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — World football governing body FIFA is being urged to suspend Pakistan after rival footballing factions sent national teams to an Asian youth qualifying tournament.

"We are not amused by this at all," said Peter Velappan, general-secretary of the Asian Football Confederation, who has recommended suspension to FIFA.

Pakistan has a formidable history of squabbling and this is not the first time that we have had to intervene."

The AFC is pressing for Pakistan's suspension "until they can resolve all of their internal problems and hold proper elections for officers," said Velappan.

FIFA's concern is likely to be heightened because both officials have started court action in Pakistan challenging one another.

TORONTO (AP) — Australian Patrick Rafter, ranked 22nd in the world, lost to little-known Olivier Delaitre of France 5-2, 6-3, 6-1 Monday, the first upset at the \$1.7-million U.S. Player's Ltd. international tennis tournament.

In other matches, the No. 13 seed, Aaron Krickstein, defeated fellow American Jeff Tarango 6-2, 6-2; Malivai Washington of the U.S. 14th seed, outlasted Bahamian Mark Knowles 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 and 16th-seeded German Karsten Branenzen eliminated American Jonathan Stark 7-5, 6-4; Sweden's Thomas Enqvist downed Austrian Alex Antonitsch 6-1, 4-6, 7-5; and Italian Stefano Pescosolido defeated France's Lionel Rout 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (7-3).

NEWS IN BRIEF**Leeds set deadline for Skuhravy deal**

LONDON (R) — English premier league club Leeds have almost given up hope of signing Genoa's Czech international striker Tomas Skuhravy. Leeds Managing Director Bill Footherby Monday extended the deadline for a deal until 1600 GMT Tuesday but admitted: "I will be surprised if the transfer goes ahead." After eight hours of negotiations with the Italian club's President Aldo Spinelli, Footherby revealed a last-minute hitch had left the three million pounds sterling (\$4.5 million) transfer in jeopardy. "We have agreed everything with Skuhravy and Genoa but there is a financial complication between the player and his club," he said. "If it is not resolved the transfer cannot go ahead."

Leeds set deadline for Skuhravy deal

NANTES, France (AFP) — Morocco international Nourdin Naybet has signed a three-year contract with Portuguese club Sporting Lisbon, officials of his French first-division club Nantes said. Sporting paid just under 9 million francs (\$1.6 million) for the 24-year-old.

Lalas gets Italian welcome...

PADUA, Italy (AFP) — American World Cup defender Alexi Lalas was welcomed by hundreds of Padua fans here Tuesday following a tug-of-war over the 24-year-old's signature. Lalas looks set to join the newly-promoted Serie A side, despite the rival attentions of English sides Coventry and German team Bochum. Club president Sergio Giordani, who is reported to have paid \$200,000 for the player for a year's loan, said: "I'm sure he'll be interested in the place than the money."

... and so will Dumitrescu

PADUA (AFP) — Romanian international Ilie Dumitrescu also looks on the verge of joining Padua. The club's directors travelled to Steaua Bucharest Monday and agreed terms with the player but his fee has yet to be thrashed out.

Effenberg wants to leave Italy

ROME (AFP) — German international Stefan Effenberg, sent home in disgrace from the World Cup for making an obscene gesture at fans, wants to leave Italian club Fiorentina after reports it was set to sign Brazilian Marcio Santos. "There won't be any room for me when he arrives," said mid-fielder Effenberg. "My contract runs to 1997 but I hope president Cecchi Gon will let me go — I've got plenty of offers."

Rugby player cleared of killing

LONDON (AP) — The first Rugby Union player in the 171-year history of the game to be accused of killing a rival on the field, has been acquitted by a court. William Hardy, 25, was charged with the manslaughter of Seamus Lavelle as a result of a clash during an amateur match in March last year. Lavelle died of head injuries two days after the incident, in which Hardy had allegedly "polarised" him with an uppercut to the jaw. Hardy did not dispute being lashed out at 16-stone forward Lavelle during the ill-tempered encounter between his club Centaurs and Hendon. However, his claim of self-defence was accepted by an Old Bailey jury. Hardy said afterwards: "I am relieved I have been cleared but I shall carry on grieving for him. I am still upset someone has died."

Rugby star fined for punch

CHALON-SUR-SAONE, France (AFP) — Former French rugby captain Laurent Rodriguez was fined 6,000 francs (\$900) for punching an opponent and breaking his jaw here on Tuesday. Rodriguez was charged with knocking out Pascal Picamet during a match between U.S. Dax and RC Chalon September 26. The prosecutor had also called for a 15-day suspended jail sentence but the court decided the offence should not go down on Rodriguez's record after hearing he was not a violent player and had shown remorse. The judge was told the clubs were back on friendly terms and Picamet and RC Chalon had withdrawn their complaint. Rodriguez played 55 internationals, including six as captain.

Olympic medallists turn professional

TORONTO (AP) — Canadians Isabelle Brasseur and Lloyd Eisler, ice dance bronze medallists in the Lillehammer and Albertville Winter Olympics, announced here Tuesday they were quitting competition to concentrate on a professional career. Brasseur, 23, and Eisler, 32, became world champions in 1987, were also four-time Canadian champions.

Blackburn star's injury misery

LONDON (AP) — England international mid-fielder David Batty will be out of action for three months with a broken bone in his right foot. Batty, bought by Blackburn Rovers for £2.75 million from English Premiership rivals Leeds United last season, will have an operation later this week. Meanwhile defenders Sol Campbell and Stuart Netherton and mid-fielder David Howells have all signed new four-year deals for their club, Tottenham Hotspur.



Brazilian national soccer players Bebeto (left), Ricardo Rocha (centre) and Romario (right) pose with their honour trophy received

for the Brazilian victory in the 1994 World Cup before a soccer match between Vasco and Gremio at the Maracana Stadium (AFP photo)

in Rio close to midnight Tuesday for a four-hour ticker-tape parade for an estimated 1 million fans.

Brazilian law permits citizens to bring up to \$500 worth of items purchased abroad into the country duty free.

That's why customs officials got suspicious when five, 30-foot (10-metre) moving trucks rolled up to drive the team's luggage to the hotel.

The unloading took time.

Sports

Simpson lawyers plead for samples of blood for independent testing

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyers and prosecutors sparred Monday over control over blood samples, with the defense demanding the right to independently analyze blood found at the murder scene and Simpson's home.

The judge first proposed a compromise, then postponed a decision on the matter.

"This goes to Mr. Simpson's right to due process, to equal protection, to have a fair look at the evidence so we can present our case to a jury in a fair manner," said defense attorney Robert Shapiro.

The request was made at a hearing that marked Simpson's first appearance before superior court judge Lance Ito, the judge assigned last week to hear Simpson's trial.

The judge declined to rule Monday, saying he needed testimony from expert witnesses on how much blood is needed for prosecutors to have proper tests. Another hearing was set for Friday.

"I sense that this is critical evidence in the case," he said. "The record is out complete here. I do not have enough scientific evidence to make a ruling at this point."

He proposed giving the defense access to 10 per cent of the samples, but delayed his decision after deputy district attorney Marcia Clark told him: "You are taking evidence out of our hands forever."

He did allow prosecutors to begin testing some blood Thursday at a lab in Maryland, two days later than planned to give a defense expert time to get there to participate in the procedure. It left until later a decision on how to handle leftover samples.

Prosecutors hope so-called genetic DNA fingerprinting and other tests on blood and other physical evidence can tie the former football star to the June 12 deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Defense lawyers hope independent tests will cast doubt on Simpson's guilt.

The test results are to be compared with blood and hair samples taken from Simpson, 47, who has pleaded innocent to two counts of first-degree murder.

Shapiro specifically asked for samples of blood drops found at Ms. Simpson's home, blood on a glove at the condo, blood drops on the driveway and in the foyer of Simpson's estate, blood on



O.J. Simpson

the glove found behind his house and smudges on Simpson's Bronco.

Clark strongly objected to the request, saying in some cases there wasn't enough blood to share without affecting the outcome of the highly sensitive DNA tests for genetic makeup.

"What (defence) counsel is really trying to do is compromise the evidence," he said.

Even in a hearing on a subject as dry as forensic testing, there were sharp clashes between the prosecution and defence.

Shapiro called prosecutors "hypocritical" in their con-

cern for the former football star to the June 12 deaths of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. Defense lawyers hope independent tests will cast doubt on Simpson's guilt.

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tention they wanted to preserve evidence because they themselves had used up some of one sample before the preliminary hearing.

Clark offered to let the defense's own expert conduct some of the tests as long as a prosecution expert witnessed the procedures. The defense didn't respond to the offer.

Ito, whose every move will be closely scrutinized in the highly publicized case, handled the hearing in a relaxed, businesslike fashion, even joking he was a little out of his league in discussing DNA testing since the kind of science he studied in college was political scientists call DNA — deoxyribonucleic acid — defines each individual's unique genetic code. Some scientists greatest forensic breakthrough since fingerprinting. Others argue it is subject to contamination and laboratory error and cannot be trusted.

Defense lawyers also planned to ask prosecutors Monday to turn over nearly all their reports and leads. They claim that prosecutors were so eager to bag a celebrity, they overlooked information that would exonerate Simpson.

They asked for police reports on prowlers and burglaries in Ms. Simpson's neighborhood in the six months before the slayings; a search of computer records for a match to unidentified fingerprints from the slaying scene; police reports of similar unsolved killings in the state over the past year; and criminal histories of everyone involved in the case.

They also asked to see reports of any internal investigations involving detectives assigned to the case and hospital records of anyone bitten by a dog in the 24 hours after the deaths. Ms. Simpson's dog led a neighbor to the bodies.

Schumacher stunned by 2-race ban

PARIS (AFP) — German driver Michael Schumacher was stunned here Tuesday as Formula One racing body FIA banned him from two Grand Prix and handed him a six-point penalty.

The decision follows a controversial black flag incident in the British Grand Prix earlier this month — and looks set to throw the drivers' championship wide open.

Reway leader Schumacher, who is now left with 66 points to British driver Damon Hill's 39, is almost certain to appeal against the verdict, which would allow him to drive in his home Grand Prix at Hockenheim Sunday.

But the Benetton Ford star would then have to look on from the sidelines at the Hungarian (August 14) and Belgian (August 28) races, where Hill could pick up a maximum of 20 points and reignite the season.

Schumacher, already fined \$25,000 for the incident, was accused of ignoring a five-second stop-and-go penalty, followed by a black flag, at Silverstone July 10 after he had overtaken Hill on the warm-up lap.

The black flag meant disqualification but Benetton team chief Flavio Briatore — whose team have been fined \$50,000 — convinced the race marshals there had been a misunderstanding.

He explained Schumacher did not realize he had to stop and believed the penalty would be added onto his time at the end of the race.

The German was forced into the pits but then allowed to continue, eventually finishing second — earning the six points which have now been docked — almost 19secs behind Hill.

FIA president Max Mosley said: "Schumacher said he did not see the black flag. The world council found this explanation unacceptable."

Schumacher, who won six out of this season's eight races, is desperate to race at the German Grand Prix. He came third at Hockenheim two years ago and took



German Formula One driver Michael Schumacher (right), flanked by Benetton's manager, Flavio Briatore, arrive Tuesday at the International Automobile Federation (FIA) headquarters after being summoned by the



Special World Council after Britain's Grand Prix in Silverstone. Below, Britain's Formula One Pilot Damon Hill arrives also at the FIA headquarters (AFP photos)

second place last year. Hill himself avoided a sanction after being accused of stopping during his victory lap to pick up a Union Jack flag. Hill argued he had not stopped, merely slowed down.

Two other drivers, Rubens Barrichello and Mike Hakkinen, were given a sus-

pended one-race ban after colliding on the final bend at Silverstone. That ban could be activated if they are guilty of further offences in the next three Grand Prix.

Atlanta sets up housing for Olympic visitors

ATLANTA (R) — A local property coalition Monday was given the job of assembling a network of thousands of private homes and apartments for lease to visitors during the 1996 Olympic Games.

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG), the private non-profit group charged with

organizing the Olympics, named Private Housing 1996 Inc. as the official private housing coordinator.

Private Housing 1996, a corporation formed by leading Atlanta real estate brokers and property developers, will put together an initial housing inventory of 6,000 beds to the so-called extended Olympic family, in-

cluding journalists and business sponsors.

"Meeting the needs of the Olympic family is our first priority. Beyond that, however, the door is wide open to assemble an even larger inventory of homes and apartments for lease to the general public when tickets go on sale next spring," Private Housing 1996 President Jerry Warshaw said.

Guest rates for homes range from \$150 per bedroom per night for a 14-day stay in a house with a tax-assessed value of up to \$110,000 to \$425 per bedroom in homes valued at up to \$600,000.

Saudis defended over Games snub

KUALA LUMPUR (AP)

— Asian Football Confederation General Secretary Peter Velappan Tuesday defended Saudi Arabia's decision not to send their World Cup side to the Asian Games in October.

The Saudi federation is to send an under-23 side to the October event in Japan.

Velappan said: "You have to understand how tired the World Cup squad is. They have basically been training since last October."

Velappan also said he preferred seeing under-23 rather than national sides compete for the Asian Games. This is what do you bid now?

A.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

*K982 75 *10 *QJ108642 *AJ985

The bidding has proceeded:

North East South West North

Pass Pass 1 0 1 V Pass

What do you bid now?

A.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

*AG1076 *QJ8742 *Void *Q93

Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?

A.—This is a marginal hand, but possession of both minor suits confers some tactical advantage. We would open the spade suit as an initial salvo, allowing us an easy ruff in hearts. If we were to open one heart, we would have to suppress our spade suit, since the hand isn't strong enough for a reverse.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

*K97654 *Void *106432

Your right-hand opponent opens

more in keeping with the age requirements for the Olympics football competition, he said.

Hoog Kong press reports said the side which defeated Belgium and Morocco on their way to the second round of the World Cup finals had "cheated" the Asian Games.

Velappan said the Saudi decision also conformed with the AFC's determination to convince the OCA to switch the Asian Games from a national to under-23 level, in line with the Olympic's football competition.

Bobby gets knighted

LONDON (AP) — Football legend Bobby Charlton was knighted by the Queen at Buckingham Palace Tuesday.

And the man who won 106 caps and played an inspirational role in the English World Cup victory of 1966, admitted: "I was far more nervous than when I was playing for England."

He insisted that he should be called Sir Bobby rather than the more formal Sir Robert.

The former Manchester United player, now a club director, added: "The Queen was very charming. It was a wonderful day and this is a tremendous honour."

"You can't plan for being honoured and this is for the game of football really."

Sir Bobby, 56, survived the 1958 Munich air disaster in which several of his Manchester United teammates died and his record of 49 goals for England still stands.



Bobby Charlton

He was accompanied by his wife Norma and daughters Suzanne, a BBC TV weather forecaster, and Andrea.

Kiwi athlete escapes drugs ban

WELLINGTON (AP) — New Zealand Commonwealth Games hammer thrower Angus Cooper escaped a drugs ban when Athletic New Zealand (ANZ) cleared him of cheating here Monday.

Cooper tested positive for banned substance pseudoephedrine at the national athletic championship of Hamilton in March.

But an ANZ tribunal ruled: "The tribunal was completely satisfied there was no attempt by Cooper to cheat or take a substance that was for the purpose of enhancing his performance."

Cooper took an over-the-counter treatment for cold or flu, the tribunal said.

He took nasal decongestant because he was suffering from a cold during the national championships and advised officials of the medication at the time.

Part of Cooper's defence was that pseudoephedrine was not a substance banned by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF).

Although the drug is not listed by name, ANZ decided that because it was so closely related to ephedrine, a named banned substance, it fell under the "chemically or pharmacologically related compounds" definition put out by the IAAF.

Under IAAF rules a three-month suspension was immediately imposed when Cooper first tested positive, that ban has now been served and Cooper is able to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Victoria, Canada, next month.

Cooper will appeal against the ban at the IAAF arbitration panel. He is challenging the classification of pseudoephedrine as a performance-enhancing substance.

ANZ's three-man doping panel originally agreed to keep the names secret because it feared legal appeals.

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(AP) — Former Rodriguez was fined \$6,000 and breaking his nose charged with knocking between U.S. and his partner but the court down on Rodriguez's violent player and had his clubs were back on RC Chalon had withdrawn 55 internationals, professional

sabelle Brasseur and Lillehammers announced here to concentrate on a four-timed Canadian

international midfielder three months with a bought by Blackburn Rovers in operation later this month and Smart Campbell and Smart wells have all signed with Tottenham Hotspur.

GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH MIRSCH
©1993 Turner Media Services, Inc.
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ
with an artificial game-forcing bid of two clubs. What action do you take?
A.—You certainly want to preempt the question is how high? There's no "correct" answer to this; it's largely a matter of style. One option would be to bid four hearts and/or the opposition's queen bid to do at a very high level when they have not yet shown a real suit. Even a full-blooded five hearts would not be bid.

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
*K982 75 *10 *QJ108642 *AJ985
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West North
Pass Pass 1 0 1 V Pass
Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—A difficult choice of clubs on this sequence could have several meanings, depending on what you do next, but all are unequivocally forcing to game. Since this hand has the earmarks of a classic misfit, you want to slow the auction down. Bid three diamonds.

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
*AG1076 *QJ8742 *Void *Q93
Do you open the bidding and, if so, in which suit?
A.—This is a marginal hand, but possession of both minor suits confers some tactical advantage. We would choose spades for an initial salvo, allowing us an easy ruff in hearts. If we were to open one heart, we would have to suppress our spade suit, since the hand isn't strong enough for a reverse.

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
*K97654 *Void *106432
Your right-hand opponent opens

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Sweifey: **Turino** the most fashionable Restaurant in Amman, has added a new chef to its team. A short form Menu is now in English and is designed to allow the guest a chance to chat with his waiter to order his exact choice of appetizers, salads,

Jordan says Oslo talks are no secret, part of multilateral decisions

Jordan, PLO and Israel draw up terms of reference for regional study

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan on Tuesday rejected the characterisation as secret of a round of talks it held with Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Oslo, Norway, on water and said the meeting was part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process.

Munther Haddadin, head of Jordan's team negotiating water-sharing in the region, also said the Oslo meeting did not produce any agreement but it approved the terms of reference for a Norwegian sponsored study on water institutions and laws and regulations related to water in the Middle East.

"There is no truth to reports that the meeting produced an agreement," Dr. Haddadin told the Jordan Times. "Nor was the meeting any secret."

He was referring to reports in the Oslo media and also carried by some international agencies which described the talks as secret and implied that the discussions somehow run parallel to the negotiations on regional water-sharing held as part of the 33-month-old Arab-Israeli peace process.

The Norwegian government invited parties involved in the water negotiations to a meeting and we accepted and also contributed to the deliberations and outcome of the meeting," Dr. Haddadin said. "It was not a meeting of the steering group of the multilateral committee," he said.

Israel-PLO talks resumed

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) met Tuesday in Cairo to discuss transferring control of education and health to Palestinians throughout Israeli-occupied territory.

"It is a test," Nabil Shaath, the Palestinians' chief negotiator, told reporters. "If we succeed today and tomorrow to transfer the authority of education and health... transfer of authority in every field will be easy."

Dr. Shaath referred to such areas as tourism, taxation and social welfare. Under the May accord giving Palestinians limited autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, transfer of these to PLO control in the rest of the West Bank was to be negotiated.

The talks on transfer of power were held for three days last week with both sides saying they were near agreement on education and would work on health this week.

Riyad Zaanoun, health minister of the new Palestine Nation Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho, said Tuesday that he hoped to convince Israel of the need to adopt a comprehensive health plan throughout the territories.

3 detained in connection with Buenos Aires blast

BUENOS AIRES (Agencies) — Authorities arrested two men and an Iranian woman Tuesday in the July 18 bombing of a Jewish charity that killed at least 95 people and injured some 250 more, official sources said.

Ten more people were still missing and feared dead, officials said.

The woman was carrying an altered passport when she was arrested at Ezeiza international airport, according to federal police sources quoted by Telam, the state news agency.

One of the men detained reportedly sold the van used in the car bombing of the seven-storey Argentine Jewish Mutual Association building. The identities of the three were not immediately released, and there was no information disclosed about the third suspect.

Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella will meet with the U.N. Security Council on Thursday to provide details of the bombing and the investigation under way, officials said.

Mr. Di Tella, in a closed-door session, will ask the

added.

Dr. Haddadin said the meeting drew up the terms of reference for conducting a "regional comparative study," as called for by the multilateral group on water when it met last in Muscat, Oman, in April.

Zafer Al Aleem and Ali Ghezawi, both members of the Jordanian delegation to the multilateral group, attended the meeting along with Riyad Al Khodary and Fadil Kawash from the Palestinian side and Avram Katz-Oz and Ilia Baruch of Israel.

A Norwegian press release identified the objective of the study project as providing "the participating parties with an overview of water management bodies, legal issues (such as water laws, rules and regulations), and economic issues (such as water supply economics) and pricing."

The study will serve as background information for all parties towards enhancement of future regional cooperation in water management," it said. "Results of the study may also assist in the structuring of the newly established Palestinian Water Authority."

"It is an implicit call on Syria and Lebanon, which have made their participation in the multilateral phase of the peace process on progress in their bilateral negotiations with Israel," Israeli delegate Katz-Oz told NRK.

"Certainly we're still waiting for two other parties... the Syrians and the Lebanese, to join us. If we achieve that... that will be a full answer for this very important step here," he said.

Security issues include

Palestinian prisoners, border crossing points, and the size of Jericho.

The last round of talks

stumbled over education, with the Palestinians demanding legislative and executive power in that field.

Israel wants to keep in place Jordanian and Egyptian education regulations, which are applied in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip respectively.

Dr. Shaath held intense 90-minute talks with Israeli delegation head General Danny Rothschild, then the rest of the Israeli team before his own delegation members joined him.

Details of the talks were not revealed.

King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Monday signed an accord in Washington officially ending 46 years of hos-

tility.

Dr. Shaath welcomed the joint declaration, calling it "a step towards a comprehensive peace settlement."

He said the Palestinians "always believed" that their September 13 and May 4 peace accords with Israel were part of the comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Meanwhile Palestinian Economic minister Ahmad Qourie said Tuesday that he had held "important" talks with Israeli economic negotiators on Sunday and Monday.

It was one of the most important meetings concerning the implementation of the economic agreement," signed between Israel and the PLO in Paris last April, Mr. Qourie told the Cairo-based Voice of Arabs radio station.

The two sides met in Verez Jericho, near the autonomous town of Jericho, where they agreed to form eight sub-committees dealing with issues including agriculture, trade, tourism, transport, banks and taxes.

Mr. Attas will lead the separatists' delegation to Thursday's talks in Geneva with his former foes in meetings that will be attended by U.N. special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

The two-month war broke out May 4 after months of feuding between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the southern leader, Ali Salem Al Beidh, over the pace of integration between the former North and south Yemen.

After their defeat earlier this month, the top southerners, including Mr. Beidh, fled to Oman taking with them warplanes, warships and military vehicles that Sanaa now wants back.

Mr. Attas told Reuters in Abu Dhabi on Monday that he hoped the Geneva talks could "lay down the peace" for future negotiations between the two sides.

President Saleh, a northerner, has declared a general

curtailing any diplomatic steps against Iran as investigators reportedly were looking into an Iranian lead in the case, in Venezuela.

Meanwhile Panama President Guillermo Endara was quoted as saying Tuesday U.S. and Panamanian investigators have concluded that a bomb caused the plane crash last week that killed 21 people.

The Panama-America newspaper quoted Mr. Endara as saying investigators had "definitively" concluded a bomb caused the commuter plane to explode in mid-air shortly after takeoff from the Atlantic port city of Colon, killing all 21 on board.

Mr. Endara said suspicion is focused on an unidentified victim of last week's crash who officials believe is from Lebanon. Officials in the president's office were not immediately available for comment on the report.

Panamanian investigators said in a statement late Monday that the explosion that brought down the plane originated beneath one of the plane's seats.

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WHITE HOUSE DINNER: Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor with U.S. President Bill Clinton (left) and First Lady Hillary Clinton (third from right), and Israeli

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and his wife Leah Rabin at the White House late Monday attending a dinner hosted by the Clintons (AFP photo)

Car-bomb explodes near London Israeli embassy

LONDON (AP) — A bomb hidden in a car shattered the Israeli embassy Tuesday and broke windows in surrounding buildings and a royal palace. At least 15 people were treated for injuries but no one was killed, police said.

"It was such a huge, huge explosion, parts of the building just collapsed," said Rachel Gordon, who works in the embassy's press office.

A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "Anti-terrorist branch officers have confirmed that the explosion appears to have been caused by an explosive device in a motor vehicle." She said all the injuries were minor.

No one immediately claimed responsibility.

Scotland Yard said the car, which was destroyed, had been parked on a grassy area at the front of the embassy along Palace Green, a street that runs past the palace.

The blast came a day after Jordan and Israel officially ended decades of hostility at

a ceremony in Washington, and eight days after a bomb at a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires, Argentina killed 80 people. Officials suspect ultra-nationalists or Middle Eastern groups in that attack.

"When we heard the explosion we immediately laid down on the floor," said Amit Maimon, the second secretary at the embassy.

"Right afterwards we evacuated people from the embassy to Hyde Park and sent people home," Mr. Maimon said. "There was no panic. Everything is under control and thank God we are all alive."

Steve Partridge, who said he was about 20 metres from the explosion, said the street "was full of bits of vehicle."

"It felt like bits of glass were flying everywhere. All the windows in the surrounding buildings were smashed out," said Mr. Partridge.

Peter Seabright, who works at the Royal Gardens Hotel near the embassy, said the Israeli building had been

heavily damaged. "It was like one story was on top of the other," he said.

Police kept reporters and cameras well away from the building.

Michael Whine, defence director of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said the group had approached police last week asking that they ban parking outside Jewish buildings. He said there had been no response.

The Israeli embassy, which formerly belonged to a famous Anglo-Jewish family, the Montefiores, is protected by a high gate. Visitors are only allowed in after speaking through an intercom.

There is a police sentry box at the entrance to Palace Green and officers check all visitors. Plainclothes Israeli security officers were on the sidewalk, and uniformed London bobbies stand across the street.

Similar precautions are enforced at the consular section, at the rear of the embassy.

United States.

"They have the infrastruc-

ture all over the world, in the

United States, in Europe, in

Latin America," Mr. Rabin

said. "They have the antireflec-

tant signs for nearby

toilets had hung from the

walls. But the act's advocates

reassured their tradition-

bound colleagues it would

certainly not lead to "Las

Vegas-style wedding parl-

ours" popping up across the

land.

World population may jump one-third by 2025

WASHINGTON (R) — The

population of the world could

soar by three billion people

— from six billion now to

nine billion people — in 31

years, a population report

said. The Population Reference

Bureau, which keeps tabs on population growth,

said the new estimate by an

Austrian scientist, Wolfgang Lutz, is about 500 million

people more than projected

earlier by the World Bank

and the United Nations for

the year 2025. Mr. Lutz's

research at Austria's Interna-

tional Institute for Applied

Sciences predicts higher fer-

tility in Africa and other de-

veloping nations than did the

World Bank and United Na-

tions, which partly accounts

for his higher prediction, the

Population Reference

Bureau, a private organisa-

tion, said.

Islamic preacher held for kissing women's navels

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A self-styled Islamic preacher

has been detained in

Malaysia for kissing the

navels of his women fol-

lowers as a "graduation" ritual,

reported Tuesday. The Islamic

Religious Department in

Malaysia's southern state of

Johor picked up the unidentified Indonesian Monday after a husband complained his wife had given all their

money to him. At least 40

women, most of them gov-

ernment workers, have been

identified as followers, said

Shafiee Hashim, the Reli-

gious Department's director.

He said the women refused to

cooperate. "It's as if they are

under a spell," the newspaper

quoted Mr. Shafiee as

saying, adding the preacher

will be prosecuted in an Isla-

mic court.

Taiwan accepts women in army, navy schools</p